

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004

7 December 1985
MPA-5047

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report — Panama Bureau — November 1985

I. GENERAL

A ground breaking of sorts for the three additional ROSET's occurred in November. In mid-month UAI contractors arrived to survey the sites for the three antennas. In addition, [redacted] the head of the team, sought bids from four Panamanian firms for the concrete work on the slabs. The projected date for having the new antennas operational is late February or early March. In another ROSET technical development, an ESI contractor arrived to begin the installation of modification kits for the closed loop cooling of drive motors of the two existing antennas. Problems developed with the mounting hardware, however, and the modification is not likely to be finished until after the first of the year.

The long awaited visit by a PMCD officer [redacted] resulted in a review of the local technical and administrative positions, the bureau chief and deputy chief positions, and the proposed chief editor position. [redacted] will review his findings with Headquarters components before final decisions are rendered.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

In November the bureau's focus of attention shifted to the south, where two major disasters — one caused by man, the other by nature — took place in Colombia.

Although the Colombian Security Council tightened security around military garrisons and government offices in October, some 50 guerrillas of the 19 April Movement, M-19, were able to take over the Palace of Justice in Bogota on 6 November. Hundreds of government officials and workers were trapped in the building. Panama Bureau remained open overnight to report on the 30 hours of intense combat that ensued, after which government forces recovered control of the building. In the fighting, 89 persons lost their lives, including the president and eight other magistrates of the Colombian Supreme Court. The incident, which dealt a devastating blow to the Colombian legal system, also cast further doubt on the chances for success of the new "Peace, Dialogue, and Verification Commission" that was sworn in by President Belisario Betancur in October. The commission was tasked with bringing the government and guerrillas to terms that could serve as a framework for peace in Colombia.

Colombia had hardly recovered from the shock of this incident when a week later volcanic activity in the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in Tolima Department melted the icecap at the tip of the volcano. It triggered a massive mudslide that buried the town of Armero, killing more than 20,000 persons. Video recordings of Colombian television reports on the two tragedies were forwarded to Headquarters via DHL courier.

In Panama, the month began with the anti-government campaign still in full swing. Opposition papers reported that Panamanian strongman General Manuel Noriega was suffering from severe stress and had sought medical treatment abroad. Students and other marchers in the 3 and 4 November Independence and Flag Day parades chanted anti-government slogans and traded insults with pro-government demonstrators on the sidewalks; and a relative of the slain Dr. Hugo Spadafora chained herself to the U.S. Embassy gate to demand that the United States pressure the Panamanian Government into conducting an investigation into Spadafora's recent assassination. Political activity appears to be on the wane, however, as the local populace seemingly has turned attention to the upcoming year-end holidays.

Visible signs of strife in Central America also seemed to be on the decline in November. Reports of cross-border attacks between Nicaraguan soldiers and Honduran troops or Costa Rican civil guardsmen were few. This month's reports focused instead on violations of airspace and territorial waters, and only 1 casualty was reported.

Both Guatemala and Honduras held peaceful presidential

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elections in November. The bureau kept open watches on local transmitters from the opening of the polls until the victory speeches 3 to 4 days after the elections. Guatemala is scheduled for a runoff election on 8 December, but in Honduras a last-minute decision by the National Electoral Tribunal on vote-counting procedures allowed the incumbent Liberal Party to obtain the right to remain in power through January 1990.

Cuba was also relatively quiet in November, as the nation braced for the onslaught of Hurricane Kate and continued preparations for the Third Communist Party of Cuba Congress scheduled for February 1986. Elsewhere in the Caribbean, Haitian President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier ousted 7 cabinet ministers on 6 November and students and workers participated in anti-government demonstrations on 27 and 28 November. Four persons were killed and 14 seriously injured in these demonstrations.

B. Communications

The bureau's Mode V AUTODIN communications routed via the Panama Automated Relay (PAR) experienced only minimal disruptions during the month. DCA headquarters responded to a bureau Unsatisfactory Service Report against PAR's performance in September by saying that they were unable to involve themselves in problems between a tributary and its relay — an answer that underscores the bureaucratic can of worms faced by the bureau in previous attempts at solving local communications problems.

On a brighter note, work is proceeding on the MUX plan, the long delayed U.S. Army communications project that would eliminate PAR and rehome all Panama AUTODIN subscribers to Fort Detrick ASC. During the month, several of PAR's tributaries were activated into the MUX Plan and by month's end PAR had only two customers still connected —Panama Bureau being one. On 25 November an Army team arrived at the bureau to begin installation and testing of the bureau's 150-baud Mode I "MUX" circuit. The Army hopes to have the bureau's MUX circuit activated within the next month or two at which time PAR would be deactivated — mercifully forever.

Finally, we began gathering information on a second microwave communications system that would allow us to circumvent the historically troubled local Army telecommunications unit and pass virtually all of the bureau communications via the U.S. Embassy in Panama City. In this connection, we are pursuing the possibility of acquiring an embassy satellite communications circuit sometime in late 1986 to pass unclassified bureau traffic.

Bureau communicators have achieved good results in quality control efforts as exemplified by a recent Headquarters notification that the bureau traffic resulted in only two MIDAS rejects in November, the lowest number of MIDAS errors ever documented.

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C. Lateral Services

The bureau provided J-3, USSOUTHCOM, with two recordings on an interview that Ines Guadalupe Duarte, the Salvadoran President's daughter, reportedly granted to the FMLN rebels during her 44-day captivity. The first recording was the interview as broadcast by Radio Farabundo Marti; the second was the interview as broadcast by Radio Venceremos.

At the request of the American Embassy in Managua, the bureau refiled to the American Embassy in Rome, for the information of the embassy in the Vatican, the text of an interview by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Borge which has appeared in Mexico City EXCELSIOR.

D. Technical

The bureau procured locally one Sony Video Monitor, Model PVM-400, Serial No. 10792. Unit Price: \$500.00.

The following accountable property was received from Paragua Bureau:

One VCR Panasonic, Model NV 260 Bi-Norma PAL-M NISC Automatic 110/220 with remote control, Serial No F5HH06038. Unit Price \$1,111.11.

One TV Monitor Philips 14" Bi-Norma, PAL-M/PAL-N Color with remote control Model 14 CT64D1/55S, Serial No U0510 000743. Unit Price: \$483.33.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

STAT Deputy Chief [redacted] received a promotion to GS-14 and senior editor [redacted] received a QSI, for her excellent handling of the editorial TDY training program.

STAT PSI's effective 24 November 1985 were given Monitor Supervisor [redacted] (from FBN-11/9 to FBN-11/10); Spanish STAT Monitors [redacted] (from FBN-9/4 to FBN-9/5); [redacted] STAT (from FBN-8/1 to FBN-8/2), [redacted] (from FBN-7/1 to FBN-7/2) STAT [redacted] (from FBN-8/1 to FBN-8/2); and Electronics Technicians STAT [redacted] (from FBN-9/5 to FBN-9/6), [redacted] (from FBN-9/6 STAT to FBN-9/7) [redacted] (from FBN-9/9 to FBN-9/19), and [redacted] SIAI [redacted] (from FBN-9/5 to FBN-9/6).

STAT The first steps were taken for obtaining diplomatic STAT passports for bureau staff personnel and dependents. Processing of applications for the [redacted] families began on 7 November. Known and possible TDY's are behind the reasoning in starting with these three. The applications for the other staff employees and dependents will follow the schedule laid out in Department of State guidance.

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B. Miscellaneous

STAT
STAT The bureau has begun receiving checks made out to the new imprest fund custodian, [redacted] in this capacity; [redacted] is the newly designated alternate custodian. We are still awaiting Headquarters approval for increasing the imprest fun from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Beginning in November, the bureau opened a credit account with DHL courier service. Use of the account lowers the cost of the service as it eliminates some of the handling charges. The driving force is the need by the bureau for an increased use of DHL for the shipment of videocassettes to Washington. In addition we are using the service to send vouchers to B&F in the hope of speeding the turn-around time for vouchers and checks.

IV. VISITS

STAT [redacted] the Special Assistant to the Director, FBIS, visited the bureau 13 and 14 November for familiarization with the bureau ROSET operation. While here, he met with the ambassador and DCM and an embassy political officer.

STAT Regional Engineer [redacted] visited the bureau 13 through 15 November for a periodic inspection. The main focus of his concern was the bureau communications system and the possibilities for improving it.

STAT PMCD officer [redacted] assessed various local and staff positions during his 19-21 November TDY.

STAT UAI contractors [redacted] were at the bureau on 13 and 14 November to begin preparations for the installation of three additional ROSET's. On 24 November, ESI contractor [redacted] arrived to begin installation of modification kits on the two existing ROSET's.

STAT TDY editor [redacted] concluded the three-month training program on 29 November and departed Panama on 2 December.

STAT
STAT Five FBIS staffers [redacted] toured the U.S. Southern Command J-2 Intelligence Watch Office Theatre Intelligence Center at Quarry Heights on 19 November and received a briefing by an Air Force watch officer.

[redacted]

Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachment:
Production Report

Panama Bureau Production Report for November 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	571600
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	18850
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1478

	BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	10735.00 min.	42570.00 min.	212.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish	1990
Buenos Aires REUTER in English	360

CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	9860
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	25130

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	2230
Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	200
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	10090
Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish	920
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	12450
Bogota REUTER in English	5230
Bogota REUTER in Spanish	670
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish	3460
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish	9680

COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish	7880
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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	9540		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			5360
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1220
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			7750
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			0
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			1130
San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish			0
 CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	640		
Havana International Service in Spanish	46720		
Havana EFE in Spanish			1300
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English			5340
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	18650		
 ECUADOR			
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	350		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	4210		
Quito REUTER in Spanish			350
 EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish	3400		
San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish	3140		
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	1960		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	2320		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	3270		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	6090		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish	2010		
San Salvador SALPRESS in Spanish	480		
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			250
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			3460
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			1290
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			1970
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
 FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		530	
Paris AFP in Spanish		36340	
 GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		13530	
 GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	3140		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	870		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	1280		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	3200		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish		1090	
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish		2350	
 HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	9580		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	4820		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	7540		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	950		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	6570		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			1770
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			2670
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			1480
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			940
 MEXICO			
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	1590		
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	4140		
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	700		
Mexico City REUTER in English	5170		
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			4050
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			270
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			600
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			4210
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			1580
 NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	3300		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	26510		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	920		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	36740		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	8340		

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BROAD-	PRESS	PUBLI-
CASTS	AGENCIES	CATIONS

Managua ANN Diplomatic Information

Service in	
Spanish	1370
Managua ANN in	
Spanish	14260
Managua PRENSA LATINA in	
Spanish	2110
Managua BARRICADA in	
Spanish	9140
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in	
Spanish	2070
Managua LA PRENSA in	
Spanish	4630

PANAMA

Panama City Circuito RPC	
Television in	
Spanish	2470
Panama City Domestic Service in	
Spanish	2310
Panama City PANAVISION Television in	
Spanish	490
Panama City Radio Mundial in	
Spanish	1220
Panama City Televisora Nacional in	
Spanish	1360
Panama City ACAN in	
Spanish	26670
Panama City CRITICA in	
Spanish	1170
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in	
Spanish	0
Panama City EL SIGLO in	
Spanish	1860
Panama City EXTRA in	
Spanish	3150
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in	
Spanish	2450
Panama City LA PRENSA in	
Spanish	17830
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in	
Spanish	0
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in	
Spanish	2180
Panama City MATUTINO in	
Spanish	3910
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in	
Spanish	490
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in	
English	550

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BROAD-	PRESS	PUBLI-
CASTS	AGENCIES	CATIONS

Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in
English

0

PERU

Lima REUTER in
English

230

SPAIN

Madrid EFE in

Spanish

32800

Madrid PRENSA LATINA in
Spanish

580

VENEZUELA

Caracas Television Service in
Spanish

8270

Caracas REUTER in
English

1980

Caracas REUTER in
Spanish

160

Caracas EL NACIONAL in
Spanish

5430

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in
Spanish

1340

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1985 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in English	360
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COLOMBIA

Bogota Television Service in Spanish	12,450
Bogota REUTER in English	5,230
Bogota REUTER in Spanish	670

CUBA

Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	18,650
Havana EFE in Spanish	1,300

ECUADOR

Quito REUTER in Spanish	350
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EL SALVADOR

San Salvador SALPRESS in Spanish	480
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GERMANY

Hamburg DPA in Spanish	230
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MEXICO

Mexico City XEV Television Network in Spanish	1,590
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	4,140
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	700
Mexico City REUTER in English	5,170

NICARAGUA

Managua ANN in Spanish	14,260
Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish	1,370
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	2,110

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PERU

Lima REUTER in English 230

SPAIN

Madrid EFE in Spanish 3,190

Madrid PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 580

VENEZUELA

Caracas Television Service in Spanish 8,270

Caracas REUTER in English 1,980

Caracas REUTER in Spanish 160

TOTAL FOR NOVEMBER 1985 83,470